

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action dated September 23, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, claims 5 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Guthrie et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,385,661) and rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guthrie et al.

By this amendment, Applicants propose to amend claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, and 12 and cancel claims 5, 10, and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer. Based on these proposed amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-7, and 9-13.

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner asserts that claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 12 are indefinite because the claims recite separate processing entities. The Examiner suggests that the phrase “processing entity” should be rewritten as a “first processing entity.” The Examiner also asserts that claims 1, 6, and 12 are indefinite because “it is unclear where the result should be returned.” See *Office Action*, page 3, lines 5-8. Although Applicants disagree with the Examiner’s position, to advance prosecution of this application, Applicants propose to amend claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, and 12 in accordance with the Examiner’s suggestions. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and § 103(a)

Although Applicants disagree with the Examiner’s positions regarding claims 5, 10, and 13, to advance prosecution of this application, Applicants propose to cancel

these claims without prejudice or disclaimer. Based on these proposed amendments, Applicants request that the rejections of claims 5 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, and 12 in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully point out that the final action by the Examiner presented some new arguments as to the application of the art against Applicant's invention. It is respectfully submitted that the entering of the Amendment would allow the Applicants to reply to the final rejections and place the application in condition for allowance.

Finally, Applicants submit that the entry of the amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks and proposed amendments, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the art cited by the Examiner. Applicants therefore request the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

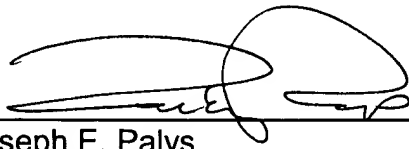
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: November 4, 2004

By: _____


Joseph E. Palys
Reg. No. 46,508